

OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

HABS NO. GA-156

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Georgia

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HAROLD BUSH-BROWN, DISTRICT OFFICER
GEORGIA SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Milledgeville, Baldwin County, Georgia

Clarke and Green Sts.

Owner: Georgia State College for Women. Occupied by Guy Wells, president of college, and his family.

Date of Erection: 1838.

Architect - Builder: Records of 1837 show John Pell was paid \$100 for the best plan for a house for the residence of the governor as approved by the committee, also that C. B. McCluskey was paid the same amount for the same purpose;- so it is thought that one of these men was the architect. Which plan was chosen is not known.

Present Condition: Good. The Salon about 25' wide x 60' long has been made into two rooms with hallway between. The cupola was built a little later as early view shows it without this feature.

Number of Stories: Two story and basement.

Materials of Construction: Foundation and exterior walls brick stuccoed and lined. Floors pine $5\frac{1}{4}$ " to $6\frac{1}{4}$ ". Interior walls wood and plaster. Roof tile.

Other Existing Records: A Treasure Album of Milledgeville and Baldwin County Georgia, Page 18, by Nelle Womack Hines. HOWARD ALABR: DOMESTIC ARCH. OF EARLY AMERICAN REPUBLIC. PLATE 132.

Additional Data: The house is square, about 60 feet on a side, with central rotunda lighted by a skylight at the top of the dome. The stairway is in the middle of the south side and leads to a balcony, circular in plan, which projects into the central rotunda and serves as a means of communication with the 2nd story rooms.

All first story doors framed with greek antae paneled and entablature overhead. Chamfered wood paneled window jambs and trim to floor; enframingent same as doors. Plaster coffered dome over central rotunda with gold decoration on ornamental mouldings. Principle¹ first story rooms have plaster cornices, plaster ceiling medallion 4 feet in diameter, wood base. Front windows paneled beneath. Black marble mantels in ball room (Salon); white marble mantel in parlour on right.

Stucco Ionic columns of front portico appear to have entasis. Main entablature appears to have stucco architrave and frieze, and wood cornice.

Columns with 34" diameter have granite caps and bases. The portico floor and steps, front door enframingent and window head and sills are granite.

The large front door is paneled and hand carved with silver plated knob and a great key.

In Dec. 1835 a resolution was passed that the old governor's house, (a part of which is still standing) be torn down and replaced by one more suitable for the governor's occupation. \$15,000 was set aside; in 1836 another sum of equal amount was appropriated. In 1837 another sum of \$2000 was added and \$5000 for furnishing.

Above the front door deeply cut in the granite are the words, "Executive Mansion," and the date, "1838." A bronze marker reads, " The Daughters of the American Revolution place here this memorial that Georgians may be forever reminded of the great men who, as governors of our Sovereign State in the Critical Years of her history, dwelt within these walls."

This was the home of eight governors between 1837-67.

It has been claimed that an underground passage leading to the Old State House existed, but it has never been found.

Harold Bush-Brown

HAROLD BUSH-BROWN Feb 9, 1937

DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

3/10/37 - TCW

Addendum to:

The Old Governor's Mansion
120 S. Clark Street
Milledgeville
Baldwin County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-156

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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240